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RUEAFVS/OSD WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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SUBJECT: SOMALI PIRACY: CHINA ASKED TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

REF: STATE 066632

11. (SBU) China was "flexible" if additional states wished to participate in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), MFA International Organizations and Conferences Department UN Affairs Division official Cheng Lie told PolOff July 2 in response to reftel points encouraging China's support for aspirant countries to join the CGPCS. Cheng said China had "no strong opinion" on the issue, and was willing to find an understanding based on the January communique. However Cheng noted that China would like to keep full membership restricted to nation states and not grant the same status to international organizations such as the United Nations and European Union, NGOs and industry representatives.  
GOLDBERG